



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Number 10

Released: June 29, 2007

CORN, HAY, PEANUTS, TOBACCO AND WHEAT ACREAGE INCREASES, AS COTTON, BARLEY AND SOYBEAN ACREAGES DECREASE

According to a survey conducted in early June by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office, Virginia's farmers will have more acres of corn, hay, peanuts, tobacco, and wheat crops in 2007. Corn and tobacco acreages were both up 10 percent and peanut acreage increased by 41 percent. Soybean acreage, the second largest row crop acreage in the Commonwealth, decreased 4 percent from 2006.

Corn producers in the Commonwealth reported that planting was completed at 530,000 acres, 10 percent more than a year ago. Corn producers expect to harvest 400,000 acres for grain in 2007, which is 55,000 more acres than last year.

Virginia farmers planted 65,000 acres of cotton this year, which is a 38 percent decrease from last year. Barley seeded acreage decreased by 9 percent from last year and is estimated at 53,000 acres. Barley producers anticipate harvesting 35,000 acres, which is 7,000 acres less than a year ago.

Soybean producers in Virginia planted 500,000 acres of soybeans in 2007, down 4 percent from 2006. As of June 25, 2007, 71 percent of the crop was planted.

All hay increased 3 percent from the previous year. Other hay acreage increased by 40,000 acres this year to 1,170,000 acres, up 4 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay remained unchanged from 2006 at 110,000 acres.

Peanut producers in Virginia planted 24,000 acres this year, which is 7,000 acres more than last year. Producers expect to harvest 23,000 acres of peanuts in 2007.

Burley producers plan to harvest 2,300 acres which is unchanged from last year. Acres of flue-cured tobacco are up 2,000 acres to 19,000 acres in 2007. Acres of dark fire-cured tobacco are up 50 acres to 400 acres in 2007.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall for this season were 230,000 acres, which is a 21 percent increase from 2006. Wheat producers are expecting to harvest 185,000 acres, which is 30,000 more than last year.

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Corn Planted Acreage Up 19 Percent from 2006
Soybean Acreage Down 15 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Up 6 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Down 28 Percent

Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 92.9 million acres in 2007, up 19 percent from 2006 and 14 percent higher than 2005. Farmers increased corn plantings 3 percent from their March intentions, resulting in the highest planted area since 1944 when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Wet conditions during March and April delayed field preparations and planting activities in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Conditions dried out considerably in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley during May allowing producers to make good planting progress, but the lack of precipitation reduced topsoil moisture and increased stress on the crop. Meanwhile, excessive rainfall in parts of the western Corn Belt, central and southern Great Plains, and middle Mississippi Valley during much of May continued to hamper fieldwork. Despite the weather related delays, growers made rapid progress and planting was completed ahead of the average pace. Farmers reported that 99 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview which is slightly above the average for the past 10 years.

The 2007 soybean planted area is estimated at 64.1 million acres, down 15 percent from last year's record high. Area for harvest, at 63.3 million acres, is also down 15 percent from 2006. This is the lowest planted and harvested area for soybeans since 1995. With the exception of New York, Pennsylvania, and the Southeast States, planted acreage decreased in all States across the country. Growers in Illinois and Iowa showed the largest decrease in soybean acreage from last year, down 1.75 million acres and 1.35 million acres, respectively. Large declines in soybean area occurred across the Corn Belt and Great Plains, with planted acreage also down more than one million acres from last year in Indiana, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Many farmers across the country shifted to planting more corn this year at the expense of soybeans. However, increases in soybean area occurred across the Southeast, where some farmers shifted from cotton to corn and soybeans. New York and Pennsylvania both set new record high planted areas, at 215,000 and 440,000 acres, respectively. Nationally, farmers reported that 88 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, compared with the average of 81 percent for the past 5 years.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 60.5 million acres, up 6 percent from 2006. The 2007 winter wheat planted area, at 45.1 million acres, is 11 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.80 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.91 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2007 is estimated at 13.1 million acres, down 12 percent from 2006. Of this total, about 12.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The Durum planted area for 2007 is 2.23 million acres, up 19 percent from the previous year.

All cotton plantings for 2007 are estimated at 11.1 million acres, 28 percent below last year and the lowest since 1989. Upland planted area is estimated at 10.8 million acres, also down 28 percent from 2006. Lower upland planted acres are estimated for nearly all States with the largest decline in Texas, at 1.40 million acres below 2006. Large decreases in acreage also occurred in the Southeast and Delta regions. American-Pima cotton growers planted 298,000 acres, down 9 percent from last year.

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